

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On Page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3, as follows:

This application is a continuation of copending application Serial No. 09/696,644, filed October 26, 2000, entitled "Improved Headgear," now U.S. Patent No. 6,317,896.

On page 15, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5, as follows:

To provide ventilation without disturbing the smooth exterior appearance of the headgear 2, which is important for equestrian helmets, the venting system 120 may further include an outer finial 140 that can be shaped to have a raised button-like appearance. The outer finial 140 is mounted on top of the outer shell 4 to cover the first vent aperture 122. The finial 140 has arched air flow passages 142 that are formed therein in fluid communication with the first vent aperture 122. The headgear 2 may further include an inner escutcheon 144 mounted on the inside of the inner liner 20 to cover the second vent aperture 124. The escutcheon 144 has plural air flow passages 146 formed in a disk-shaped flange portion 148 thereof. The air flow passages 146 are in fluid communication with the second vent aperture ~~144~~ 124. The finial 140 and the escutcheon 144 can be secured together within the first and second vent apertures 122 and 124. They are preferably connected in the manner described in the above-referenced '004 patent. Thus, as shown in Fig. 14 herein, the finial ~~46~~ 140 has a central mounting stem 150 with a central bore 152. The escutcheon ~~48~~ 144 has a central base stem 154 extending from the flange portion 148. The base stem 154 is sized to be snugly received in the central bore 126 of the second vent aperture 124. The escutcheon ~~48~~ 144 further has a secondary stem 156 extending from the base stem 154. The secondary stem 156 is designed to be received within the hollow bore 152 of the finial stem 150. A suitable adhesive is used to bond these components together. Although not shown, a plurality of longitudinal grooves can be formed along surface of the

hollow bore 152 to allow excess adhesive to collect. In addition, the secondary stem 156 may be provided with a central through-hole to allow air to escape during assembly when the escutcheon is mounted thereon, and to speed drying of the adhesive.